

Wisdom Tooth Management

Pain or no pain:  **Your wisdom teeth should be checked annually.**

9 of 10

people have at least one impacted wisdom tooth.

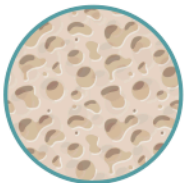


Did you know?

It is **less complicated** to remove wisdom teeth when the patient is **younger** because:



The roots are not completely formed.



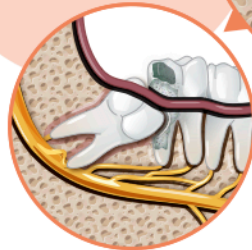
Surrounding bone is softer.



There is less chance of damaging nearby nerves or other structures.

Is an impacted wisdom tooth serious?

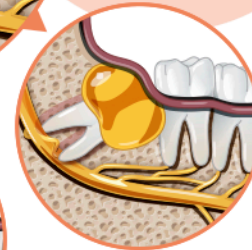
Yes! Complications can arise, including:



Damage to adjacent teeth



Infection



Formation of cysts

What is an impacted tooth?

When wisdom teeth cannot break through the gums, or there isn't enough room for them.

When should they be removed?

Generally, wisdom teeth should be surgically removed when there are:

- Infections and/or periodontal (gum) disease
- Cavities that can't be restored
- Cysts, tumors or other pathologies
- Damaged neighboring teeth

What if they are not removed?

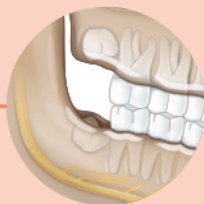
Healthy, properly positioned wisdom teeth require:

- Regular, professional cleanings
- Annual checkups
- Periodic X-rays to monitor for changes

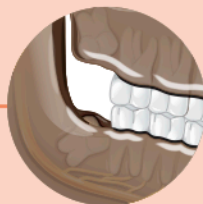
○ **Third molars (known as wisdom teeth):** The last teeth to develop and appear in the mouth ○



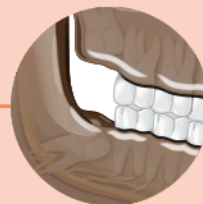
12 Years



14 Years



17 Years



25 Years

Pain-free does not necessarily mean disease-free.
The worst thing to do is to ignore your wisdom teeth.

"Age of Wisdom"

Ages 17 to 25, when third molars come in.



Oral and maxillofacial surgeons:
The experts in face, mouth and
jaw surgery

Visit **MyOMS.org**

to find an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in your area.

Source: American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, www.MyOMS.org

This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.